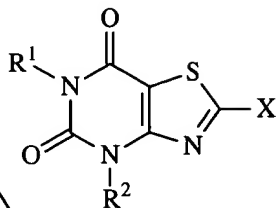


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1 is -Z-A wherein Z is (a) C_1 - C_7 alkyl, optionally comprising 1-2 double bonds, 1-2 nonperoxide O or 1-2 NR wherein R is individually H, phenyl, benzyl, C_2 - C_4 alkanoyl or C_1 - C_6 alkyl; (b) C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl; (c) C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl C_1 - C_3 alkyl; (d) C_6 - C_{10} aryl; or (e) C_6 - C_{10} aryl C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

A is $N(R)_2$, C_2 - C_4 acyloxy, SO_3H , PO_4H_2 , $NNO(OH)$, SO_2NH_2 , $PO(OH)NH_2$, OH, SO_2R^3 tetrazolyl, or $COOR^3$ wherein R^3 is H, phenyl, benzyl or C_1 - C_6 alkyl optionally substituted with 1-2 OR, C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl, C_6 - C_{10} aryl, C_2 - C_4 alkenyl, phenyl, tetrazolyl or OZ wherein Z is an ester of an amino acid;

R^2 is a C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_2 - C_4 alkenyl, C_6 - C_{10} aryl C_1 - C_2 alkyl or C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl C_1 - C_2 alkyl;

X is H, halo, OR, SR, N_3 or $N(R)_2$; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is (C_2 - C_6)alkyl or phenyl.

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein A is CO_2R .

4. The compound of claim 3 wherein R^3 is H or (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, optionally substituted with OH, C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl or OZ, wherein Z is an ester of an amino acid.

5. The compound of claim 4 wherein Z is an L-valine residue or L-glycine residue.

6. The compound of claim 4 wherein Z is 4-pyridyl.

7. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R¹ is ethoxycarbonylpropyl.

8. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein X is NH₂.

9. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R² is CH₃ or CH₂CH₂CH₃.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. A therapeutical method for treating a pathological condition associated with TNF α release comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of claim 1 effective to treat said pathological condition.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said condition comprises a pathological inflammatory response.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said inflammatory response is due to arthritis.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said inflammatory response is due to an autoimmune disease.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, asthma, psoriasis or inflammatory bowel disease.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein said condition comprises cardiomyopathy or congestive heart failure.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein said condition comprises insulin-resistant diabetes.

[Handwritten signature]

adef
B4